



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Meeting Minutes:
May 1, 2013

County Administration Building
1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 335, San Diego, CA 92101

Present:	Present:	Excused:	Guests:
Emiliano Aragon	Bob Morris	Alfonso Hernandez	Suzie Ditmars
Gloria Cazares	Patricia Reeve		
Deborah Flores	Elizabeth Robles		
Donovan Geiger	Pamela Thorsch		

City Economic Development Staff: Adrienne Turner, Lydia Moreno

Mayoral Staff: None

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**Call to Order:** Chair, Donovan Geiger @ 9:04 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes** – The March 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

**Introductions:** The board members and city staff introduced themselves.

**Guest Speaker:** Supervisor Ron Roberts

Supervisor Roberts described his international activities. His principal focus for the last several years has been Asia. He meets with foreign delegations on an average of two per month, the majority are from China and other Asian countries. Two years ago the number of Chinese visitors surpassed the number of visitors from Japan. He has had the opportunity to visit Asia several times, traveling with delegations including representatives from major San Diego corporations.

The Chinese government structure is very different from the U.S. structure. Chinese Mayor's wield a lot of power at high levels. Protocols are fixed and can be rigid, such as formal assigned seating at meetings, etc. Asians are wonderful people and treat foreign dignitaries with great honor and are excellent hosts. The same level of hospitality is not shown to foreign visitors in the U.S. There's a need for more U.S. elected officials to become involved and establish relationships with their foreign counterparts.

Supervisor Roberts expressed his interest in building educational relationships with foreign countries. All students spoke English at the schools he visited in Asia. He also visits schools in San Diego encouraging foreign language and student exchange programs. On an ongoing basis, he works closely with all universities and other organizations connected with international activities.

Board members discussed the best ways of messaging to the general public the importance of international relations and learning about the world cultures: working with the arts, cultural groups, schools and businesses. As well as keeping council members and the mayor informed on international activities.

The board asked Supervisor Roberts how they could assist him. The board chair noted that the International Affairs Board was listed on the County's website as a city board with a county representative appointed by the Board of Supervisors. It was agreed to research that issue.

Supervisor Roberts invited the board to visit his office and see the photos and memorabilia of his visits to foreign countries.

**Action Items and Information Reports:**

- a. Establish a new regular meeting day and time for IAB monthly meetings. This item was mentioned but not discussed due to time constraints.
- b. Identify future Guest Speakers: Donovan will try to reschedule the San Diego Consular Corps.

**Adjournment:** Donovan Geiger adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** June 18, 2013

**If unable to attend meeting, call Adrienne Turner at 619.236.6364 or email at [aturner@sandiego.gov](mailto:aturner@sandiego.gov)**

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